

# ROME AND THE MEMORY OF WWII

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Cover image: American Tank Destroyers M10 in front of the Colosseum (Rome, 5 June 1944)

# Rome and the Memory of WWII



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

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## Introduction

The first-hand memory of WWII is by now fading. Survivors, victims, and spectators are no longer bearing witness with their bodies, but only with their words, lost in a media-saturated environment where the boundaries between fact and fiction, document and fabrication, description and stereotype, are increasingly blurred.

WWII is no longer an object of memory, because its experience can only be reconstructed or reimagined. It has become, in other words, an object of post-memory. This category, created by Marianne Hirsch and inspired by works such as Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, defines all those texts – fictional, non-fictional, visual, and audiovisual – that centre on a mediated experience of trauma and loss, first and foremost the experiences of WWII and the Holocaust.

The international conference *Past (Im)Perfect Continuous. Trans-Cultural Articulations of the Postmemory of WWII*, which took place at La Sapienza University of Rome in June 2018, was devoted to a vast array of post-memorial works. The conference focused on a variety of venues of private and public memory such as movies, novels, memoirs. Besides being an opportunity to understand the workings of memory, it contributed to its construction, showing the pitfalls and the power of memorialization in a civil society which is less and less aware of its own history and seems often unable to broaden its vision.

This booklet was part and parcel of the conference project. It was meant to show to the conference participants a crucial layer of Rome's rich memorial texture: the scars, visible or hidden, left by WWII and the Holocaust. Venturing into the forest of signs of the city, it contributed itself to the construction of memory by highlighting landmarks, paths and perspectives of a past that is

day by day more elusive. Its main assumption is that the spatial experience afforded by Rome can be a powerful source of ethical and emotional awareness.

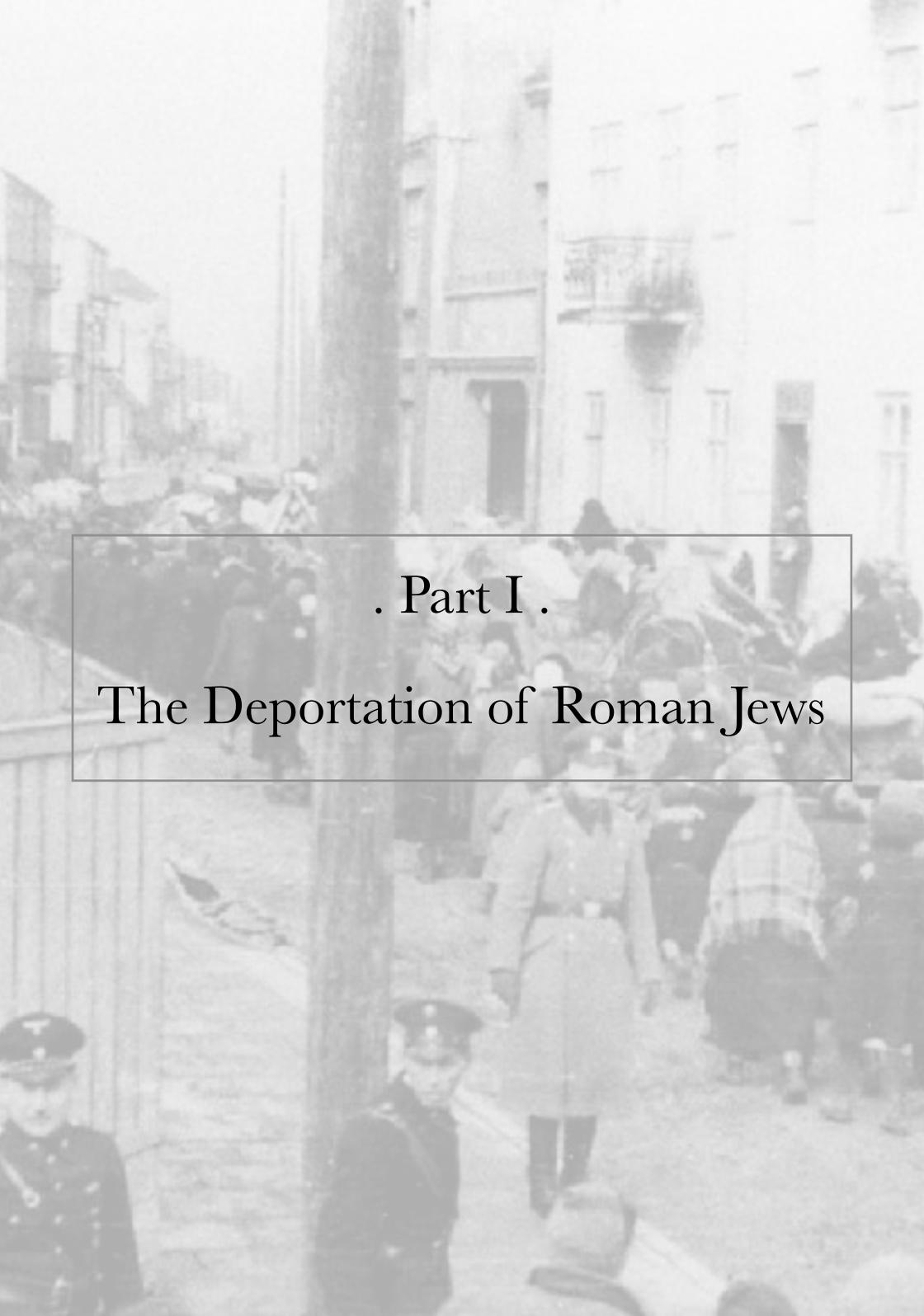
Consistently with this purpose, the authors of the booklet have decided to make it available to all visitors, both actual and virtual. Institutions, as well as people, should engage in a sustained conversation to enliven memory as a plural effort, and should imagine new ways to do so.

The Conference Organizers

## Acknowledgements

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Many thanks are also due to the Dipartimento di Studi Europei, Americani e Interculturali of La Sapienza University of Rome, and to the organizing committee of the international conference *Past (Im)Perfect Continuous. Trans-Cultural Articulations of the Postmemory of WWII*.



. Part I .

# The Deportation of Roman Jews

## Rome: facts and origins of the deportation

Rome's participation in the events of the Holocaust cannot be forgotten or ignored. After seventy-five years, the raid of the Jewish ghetto of 16 October 1943 – the greatest Italian deportation – remains an open wound in the broader collective consciousness. From Saturday 16 to Monday 18, as a consequence of the devastating 'Final Solution', more than 1000 people, including 200 children, were brutally driven from their homes by Nazi forces and deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Of the 1022 deportees only 16 people returned. None of the children survived.



The Jewish community had been living in Rome for centuries and was amongst the oldest permanent settlements in Europe. The **Roman Ghetto of Rione Sant'Angelo**, near the **Tiber River**, was the epicentre of the operation, even though recent studies have demonstrated that the arrests and military

persecutions largely took place also in districts other than the ghetto and its adjacent areas. On the eve of the 1943 deportation, higher German authorities required the capture and implicit elimination of 8000 Jews. It is not possible to state the exact population of the Jewish community in Rome at the time, but it is very likely that as of October 1943 around 13000-13500 both Italian and foreign Jews inhabited the city.



In Italy, prior to the summer of 1943, ethnic deportations like those which were being executed across Europe had not occurred. Yet, the 1938 racial laws enacted by the Fascist government had already curtailed citizens' freedoms. Amongst various prohibitions and obligations, the new anti-Semitic legislation precluded Jewish people from a proper education, and severely excluded male Jews from both civil and military service. After 1938, all of the rights they had finally acquired after the capture of Rome during the Italian unification now seemed to vanish. The Fascist pseudoscientific dissertation entitled *Il Manifesto degli Scienziati Razzisti* or *Manifesto della Razza* (*Manifesto*

of the Race), explicitly advocated a racist policy in which Italians were identified with the 'Aryan' type, whereas Jews were demoted to an inferior and dangerous sort:

JEWES DO NOT BELONG TO THE ITALIAN RACE...the Jews represent the only people that have never been assimilated in Italy, and this is because they are made up of non-European racial elements, entirely different from the elements that produced the Italians.





Aldo Gay

Amongst similar speculations, the final argument of the *Manifesto* forbade categorically any process of hybridization: “The purely European physical and psychological characteristics of the Italian people must not be altered in any way”. By justifying the resurgence of an Italian-Roman Empire, Social Darwinist thinking poisoned social conceptions. Evidently, racial prejudices and base popular beliefs had already paved the way to further horrors.

The National Socialist violence of October was a final blow as well as the starting point of subsequent deportations and arrests conducted by Nazis and Fascists alike. In Italy, it was the next step that marked the transition from discriminatory attitudes to ruthless man hunting. Nevertheless, especially after the provisional dismissal of Mussolini in July 1943, few would expect such an aggressive and inhuman course of action. Joyous celebrations enlivened the entire city of Rome and people could freely manifest within the ghetto itself, symbolically parading in front of **Portico d'Ottavia** (an ancient Roman structure in the heart of the ghetto).

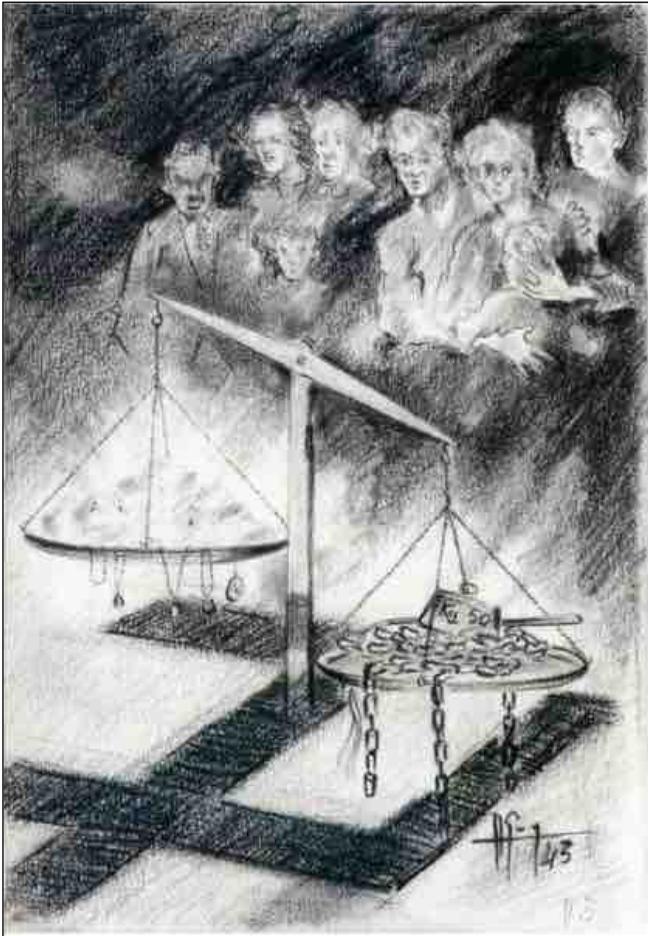




Pio Pullini

But it did not last long, and all the enthusiasm was extinguished only a few months later; after Marshal Pietro Badoglio's armistice with the Allies, Rome was soon occupied in September 1943 by German forces. That October, Portico d'Ottavia was to be the stage for the deportation.

The military occupation of Rome – formally declared ‘open city’ – was characterised by an unprecedented despotism, even before the actual October events. Already on 25 September 1943, Herbert Kappler, the head of the German police and security services in Rome, demanded the extortionate sum of 50 kilograms of gold from the Roman Jewish community (*Goldaktion*).



Aldo Gay

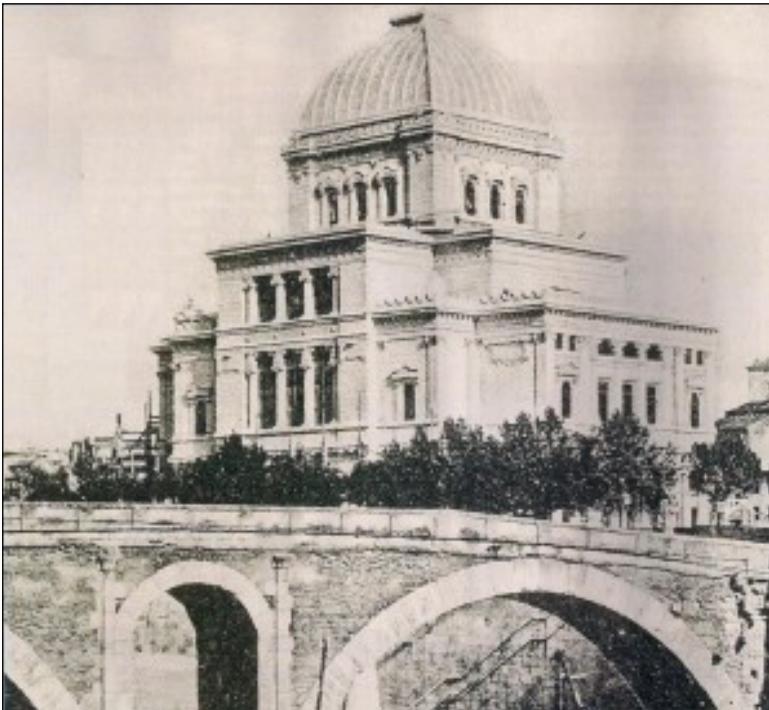
If the request would not be satisfied within 36 hours, a group of 200 members would be immediately deported. There was little choice; on September 28<sup>th</sup> they were forced to submit to the blackmail. Along with some generous aids from non-Jewish contributors, the community eventually presented the gold offer at the German police station in **Via Tasso 145-155** – the former German Embassy Cultural Office. During the Nazi occupation, this complex was also used as a prison, and place of torture, by the Security Police Command (SIPO) and the Service of Safety (SD) of the SS. Currently, the building houses the **Historical Museum of the Liberation**.



In truth, the *Goldaktion* was nothing but a wicked deceit in the typical Nazi fashion. Kappler had initially guaranteed the community safety:

It is not your lives or the lives of your children that we will take – if you agree to our demands. It is your gold we want, in order to buy new arms for our country ... If you pay, you will not be harmed.

However, despite the success of the gold extortion, the abuses did not end; on the contrary, they escalated dramatically. Following the delivery of the gold, a group of German forces looted the offices of the Jewish Community (**The Great Synagogue** or '**Tempio Maggiore**', in front of Portico d'Ottavia, which presently hosts the offices, along with the Rabbinical Office, the ritual bath, the Spanish Synagogue, the Historical Archive and the **Jewish Museum of Rome**). From the pillage, they confiscated further money in addition to various documents and lists containing relevant data for their operations. Then in October, closer to the day of the Roman roundup, they even plundered the **Rabbinical Library** and the **Library of the Jewish Community**. Many of the stolen books have been since lost.



## 16 October 1943 and its aftermath: the Roman diaspora

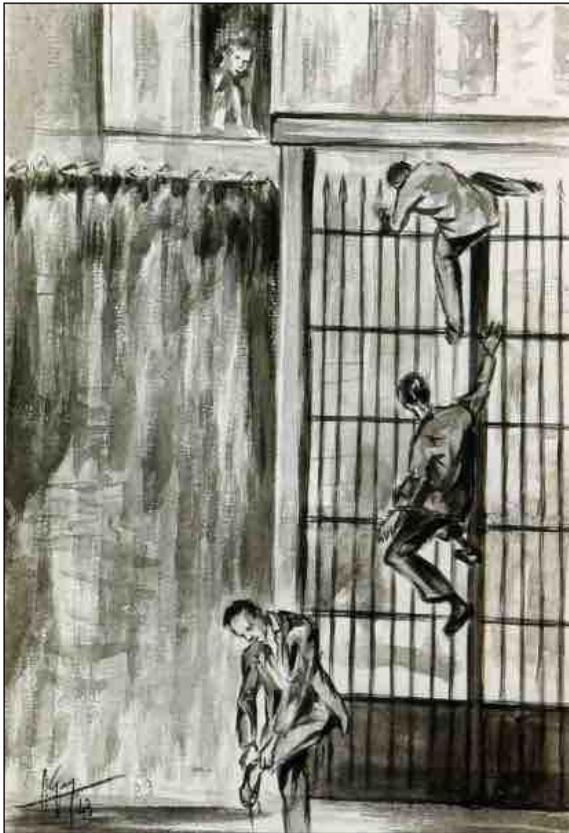


Aldo Gay

Events began early in the morning of Saturday 16 October. Around 5.30 a.m., Nazi forces composed of about 365 men were sent to capture Roman Jews in 26 operative areas. The officer in charge of the raid was the *Judenreferent* Theodor Dannecker, who in July 1942 had already been a key figure in the mass arrest of the roundup in Paris – the *Vélodrome d'Hiver* raid. Of course, with so small an army the Nazis could barely meet the original Berlin order of capturing “8000 Roman Jews”. Nonetheless, the result proved itself equally catastrophic: 434 citizens (42,71%) were arrested in the ghetto areas, whilst another 565 individuals were caught in other zones of the city (55,62%).

Within the ghetto, before the actual incursions started, armed men preliminarily patrolled and blocked the main entrances,

namely **Via del Tempio**, **Via del Progresso** (now **Piazza delle Cinque Scole**), **Piazza Costaguti**, **Piazza Mattei**, **Via Sant'Angelo in Pescheria**, **Teatro Marcello** (an ancient Roman open-air theatre) and finally **Via del Portico d'Ottavia**. The Jews of the ghetto could not anticipate the extent of the folly. Despite the previous offenses and violations, the raid caught the community by surprise. Furthermore, the operation was designed to take place at dawn so as to capture as many people as possible while the city was still sleeping. Luckily, however, some of the persecuted had been alerted by friends or



Aldo Gay

relatives by telephone calls, and thus managed to escape in time before the Nazis broke into their apartments. In haste and desperation people did whatever they could; some ran through the roofs to save their lives while many others looked for a safe shelter amidst the confusion of the roundup. Completely surrounded from every corner, the Roman ghetto turned into a deadly trap.

The German police had already acquired – through government and confiscated papers – the names of those who could possibly be in the district at that time. Organized in small groups of 4-6 men, they forcibly entered the homes of the victims. Without further explanation, they distributed a short notice in which it was stated, very roughly, that they were being transferred elsewhere. The same text also ordered individuals to bring with them a supply of food for at least 8 days, glasses, identification documents and some personal belongings, together with all the money and jewelry they possessed. Another point clearly stated that ill people, regardless of their physical condition, should come too. Moreover, all the directions were to be met within 20 minutes. It is easy to understand how panic spread quickly under such circumstances.

People were then ordered into the streets. Settimia Spizzichino – one of the deported Jews and amongst the 16 Auschwitz survivors – wrote in her memoir:

We were herded in front of **S. Angelo in Pescheria**. Grey trucks kept coming, the Germans loaded in people – by shoving or with the bottom of the rifle – men, women and children... even the elderly and the sick, and then they left again. When it was our turn, I realized that the truck was going through **Lungotevere** [the Tiber] in direction of **Regina Coeli**. But then it went straight to the Collegio Militare [Military College]. They brought us into a big room: we stayed there for many hours.



Pio Pullini

The **Collegio Militare** was hosted up until 1946 in **Palazzo Salviati**, a Roman Palace located in **Via della Lungara, 82**. It was in this building – which is not far from the prison of **Regina Coeli** mentioned in Settimia Spizzichino’s recollection – that about 1200 of the captured men, women and children, were temporarily mustered in its rooms and inner garden by the Germans. Not being far from the sight of the Vatican, moreover, people would expect some intervention from Pope Pius XII; but no tangible help saved the Roman Jews from the 16 October deportation. Still now, many are the controversies in this regard.



After moving the prisoners to the Collegio Militare, there was a further final selection. As Kappler himself officially reported:

1259 persons were arrested in Jewish homes, and taken to assembly camp[s] of the military school here in the course of the action which lasted from 0530 to 1400 hours. After the release of those of mixed blood, of foreigners including a Vatican citizen, of the families in mixed marriages including the

Jewish partner, and of Aryan servants and lodgers there remain 1002 Jews to be detained.

They were left there for two days, without any information or clarification about what was going to happen, and with a scarcity of food their condition increasingly worsened. But the worst was yet to come. On the morning of October 18, treated like cattle, they were transferred directly to the cargo-loading platform of **Tiburtina Station**. It took around eight hours to complete the transfers by truck from the Military College to the Roman station. The Jews were loaded into the train by exploiting each wagon's full capacity and at around 2.00 p.m. the transport, composed of about thirty freight cars, was ready to depart for Auschwitz. A few days later, as they arrived at the camp, disoriented and traumatized, 826 Jews out of 1022 were taken directly to the gas chambers. Only sixteen came back home; in 2018, the only living survivor was Lello Di Segni, who died in



October. As time goes by, memory tends to fade out with the passing away of those who experienced the atrocities. Now more than ever the written word should remind us of our past. To this end, on **Platform no. 1** of Tiburtina Station, along with other memorials, there is a commemorative plaque to the deportees.

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*I have a peculiar memory of that day: we had been woken up by some noises at dawn; we looked through the window and saw the Temple silhouetted against the pink coloured sky: it was a beautiful view that clashed with what was happening, at the time I was 13/14, and I was struck by that image.*

Interview to Gabriella Ajò in Antonucci [et.al], *Roma*



Isola Tiberina and Synagogue on the right. Picture kindly provided by Carlo Galeazzi.

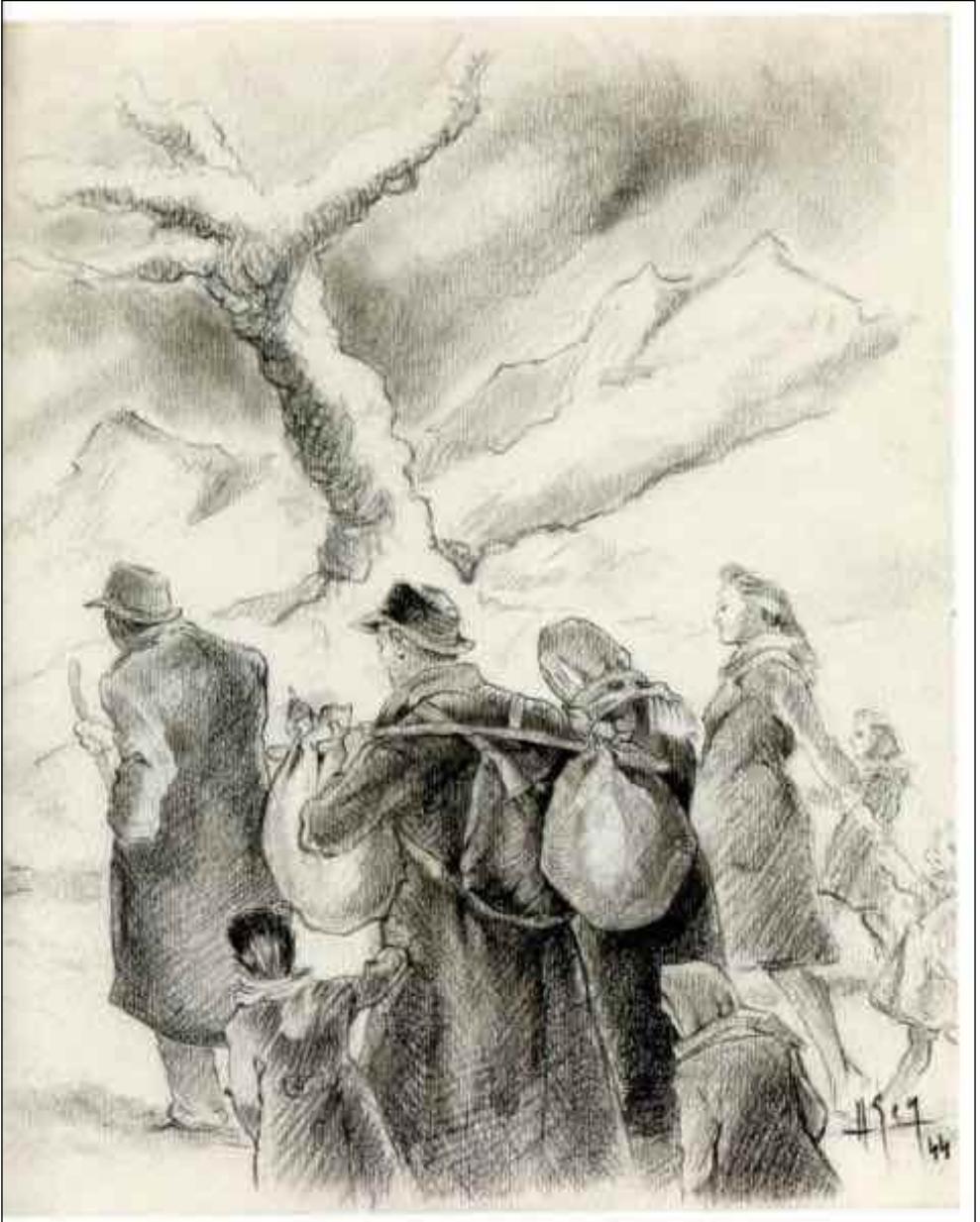
But what happened to those who were not sent to Auschwitz? It has been estimated that from October 1943 to the liberation of Rome in June 1944, more than 700 other Jews became victims of the deportations. Evidently, it proves to be a harder task – if not impossible – to trace an accurate geography of the tribulations of the Jews in Rome. The October roundup was by far the most tragic event during the foreign occupation of the capital. This is not to say, however, that the mass deportation put an end to the sufferings; it was rather the opening of an unjust diaspora throughout the Roman territory. Even though many had found a temporary shelter during the roundup, they now had to cope with an increasingly hostile society. A great number of Jews, for example, in order not to be captured, found refuge in several Vatican properties and churches, like the **Basilica of St. Bartholomew on the Tiber Island**.

Living in the capital after October 1943 became a constant nightmare in which one was obliged to hide relentlessly. Those who had had the opportunity to escape the roundup were chased in their own land as though they were criminals – even by their fellow countrymen. More generally, from central Italy to the Northern areas of the peninsula, racial hatred and persecutions were now fostered by the newly founded Italian Social Republic, the puppet state guided by Mussolini. Set up by the Nazis in September 1943, the new Fascist regime turned out to be extremely antagonistic to the Jewish population, especially towards the end of 1943 onwards. The government policy was clear-cut and inflexible in this regard. After all, the Republic’s manifesto *La Carta di Verona* definitively stated: “All those belonging to the Jewish race are foreigners. During this war they belong to an enemy nationality”. On 30 November 1943, police order “number five” ordered the arrest and internment of all Jews and the confiscation of all Jewish property. Many Jews were transferred to Italian internment places, with **Fossoli concentration camp** being the main transit camp in the province of Modena; from there, later in 1944, the horrific



deportations were to recommence. Obviously, in a society where man hunting became officially legalized by the Italian 'Republic', the Jewish population felt desperate and completely abandoned to their unrecognized faith. The only way out would be the end of the war, and that, anyway, was a highly indefinite event.

All Jews inhabiting the city of Rome, like the Italian painter Aldo Mario Gay, thus started their own diaspora – which could be, as a matter of fact, quite different from case to case. Forced to escape Nazi-Fascist persecutions, the scattered Jews would either find shelter in the Roman countryside or hide in those few safe spots the city still offered. Virtually any place could be used as provisional shelter: attics, basements, abandoned houses and so forth. Indeed, those who had already established friendships in the city found themselves in an advantageous position; above all, the fact of having influential contacts could be a key factor in this desperate struggle for survival. In many instances, non-Jewish Romans often risked their lives to host fugitives or provide them with false documents. Not only had the Jews in Italy lost their civil rights, but they were also obliged to give up their identity without any possibility of negotiation. However, it is worth remembering that unfortunately such acts of kindness did not always occur. Often, in fact, the Jews were betrayed by their fellow countrymen in exchange for money and other sorts of rewards. Rome became an arena of greed in which putting trust in someone could easily be fatal; nevertheless, human sympathy alone could bring some hope during the tragedies of the Roman diaspora.



Aldo Gay

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. Part II .

# The Bombing of San Lorenzo



Some memorial tablets at the entrance of San Lorenzo from the Termini station direction.

During the War, a possible bombing of Rome had never been taken into consideration by the Italian authorities despite the dropping of leaflets by the Allies some time before the nefarious occurrence. These papers were immediately gathered and got rid of by the Police Headquarters. These leaflets were aimed at “honest” Italian people, who were urged to revolt against Mussolini and Fascism. The message was the following: “ITALIANS! TODAY IT’S A LEAFLET THAT IS DROPPED ON ROME.” This point was explained further on: “But today we will drop only leaflets, even though we have the possibility of dropping some bombs on your heads.” With the benefit of hindsight, it wasn’t simply an informative document but an ultimatum for the Italian people. If they didn’t revolt, bombs were to be released on Rome.

On Monday, 19 July 1943, at 11.03 in the morning, 662 American bombers and 268 fighters, coming from northern Africa, bore down suddenly on the eternal city. They flew at 20.000 feet from the ground to avoid the Italian fighters that



could not fly at similar heights. The Italian air force defended the city with only 38 fighters showing a total lack of organization. Unsurprisingly, the Americans lost only one fighter while the Italians lost three. The gangsters, as the Americans were called by the Fascists, had planned to hit strategic outposts: the railway stations of Littorio and San Lorenzo and the airports of Littorio and Ciampino. In about two hours of air raids, around 4000 bombs and a total of 1060 tons of explosives were dropped. Theoretically, the operation was to be a surgical one with an insignificant number of casualties. Unfortunately, this was not the case. In the first wave of the attack, not only the railway of San Lorenzo but also the populated area of the district was heavily bombed.

At the time, San Lorenzo was a multicultural area bustling by workers belonging to different traditional crafts. As stated



previously, during the first air raid, the railway station was immediately hit. Furthermore, a wagon containing munitions exploded creating a mist that would affect the view of the other pilots. As a result, the bombs were dropped in areas that did not belong to the target zone. The popular district of San Lorenzo was completely overwhelmed by bombs: **Via dei Volsci** was just one of the many areas that suffered great losses. Families, workers, nuns, orphans, practically nobody was spared by the bombs.



A map of San Lorenzo and its surroundings.

**Piazzale del Verano** was undoubtedly the area that suffered the most devastating physical consequences. The entrance of the cemetery, that gives the name to the place, was completely destroyed. During the raid, the cobblestones darted in all directions leaving marks on all the buildings in the roundabouts and the tram rails were twisted. At the crossroad with **Viale Regina Elena**, you can find a plaque commemorating general Azolino Hazon who died at 11.30 during a car patrol just after the first raid. He was hit by a bomb.



*“The silver medals for military valour are awarded to General Azolino Hazon, Commanding General of the Carabinieri, and Colonel Ulderico Barengo, Chief of the General Staff, who, after the occurrence of the first aerial offensive on Rome, while they were rushing to the sites most affected to offer their inspiring presence and reaffirm the commitment of the carabinieri to the community with extreme sense of duty and courage, were overwhelmed here by the explosion of an aerial bomb, sacrificing their noble existences and merging generously their blood with that of the innocent civil victims in the glorious martyrdom that showed the nation the path to liberty and democracy. Rome, July 19, 1943.”*

*The Third Municipality in the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Rome, July 19, 2008.*

Always in the Piazza, the congregation of the **Basilica of San Lorenzo** was to bear witness to a historical event. On the day of the bombing, at 5.20 pm, Pope Pius XII, known as the

*defensor Urbis*, left the Vatican State. As soon as he heard about the bombing, the Pope decided to go and succour immediately the victims. It was the first time since the beginning of the War that the Pope left the Vatican state.

On July 20, the Pope wrote a letter to the American president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, “following the bombing of Rome”:

And now even in Rome, parent of western civilization and for well nigh two thousand years centre of the Catholic world, to which millions, one may risk the assertion, hundreds of millions of men throughout the world have recently been turning their anxious gaze, we have had to witness the harrowing scene of death leaping from the skies and stalking pitilessly through unsuspecting homes striking down women and children; and in person We have visited and with sorrow contemplated the gaping ruins of that ancient and priceless Papal basilica of St. Laurence, one of the most treasured and loved sanctuaries of Romans, especially close to the heart of all Supreme Pontiffs,





and visited with devotion by pilgrims from all countries of the world.

The Pope's visit to San Lorenzo was not recounted by the newspapers of the time even though various witnesses and a statue, placed in the piazza, commemorate this event.



The district of San Lorenzo had also another church, the **Chiesa dell'Immacolata**, at its centre. The parish priest at the time was Don Libero Raganella, an anti-Fascist who also helped the Jews during the deportation in October 1943. On the right of the **Piazza dell'Immacolata**, there is a memorial plaque that says:

*The national association of the Partisans of Italy and the citizens of San Lorenzo, in the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deportation, as perpetual testimony of the irrefutable and indelible human tragedy, remember the Jews who were deported, tortured, assassinated in the Nazi extermination camps.*

Historically, San Lorenzo was known for its socialist, communist and, above all, anti-Fascist feelings. Ironically, the allies bombarded the area that had most opposed the Fascists. So it was no wonder that the main Roman newspaper of the time, *Il Messaggero*, hardly mentioned San Lorenzo amongst the



The title pages of two Italian newspapers of the day after the bombing.

areas most severely struck that went from Porta Maggiore to Tiburtina. However, the population of San Lorenzo, faithful to their political orientation, blamed Mussolini and his followers for the destruction of the district. Moreover, for Mussolini, the bombing would turn out to be fatal for his political career.

On the day of the air raid, Benito Mussolini had met Adolf Hitler at Villa Gaggia in Belluno, northern Italy. The recent loss of the African territories had weakened the Italian forces making it impossible for them to continue the war. A silent Mussolini, at the mercy of the Führer, was to be informed of the bombardment of Rome during the meeting. Six days later, the Duce would resign and a new government was to be formed by the general Pietro Badoglio. As Badoglio later stated: “The landing of the Allies in Sicily and the bombing of Rome in the summer of 1943 marked the destiny of Fascism.”

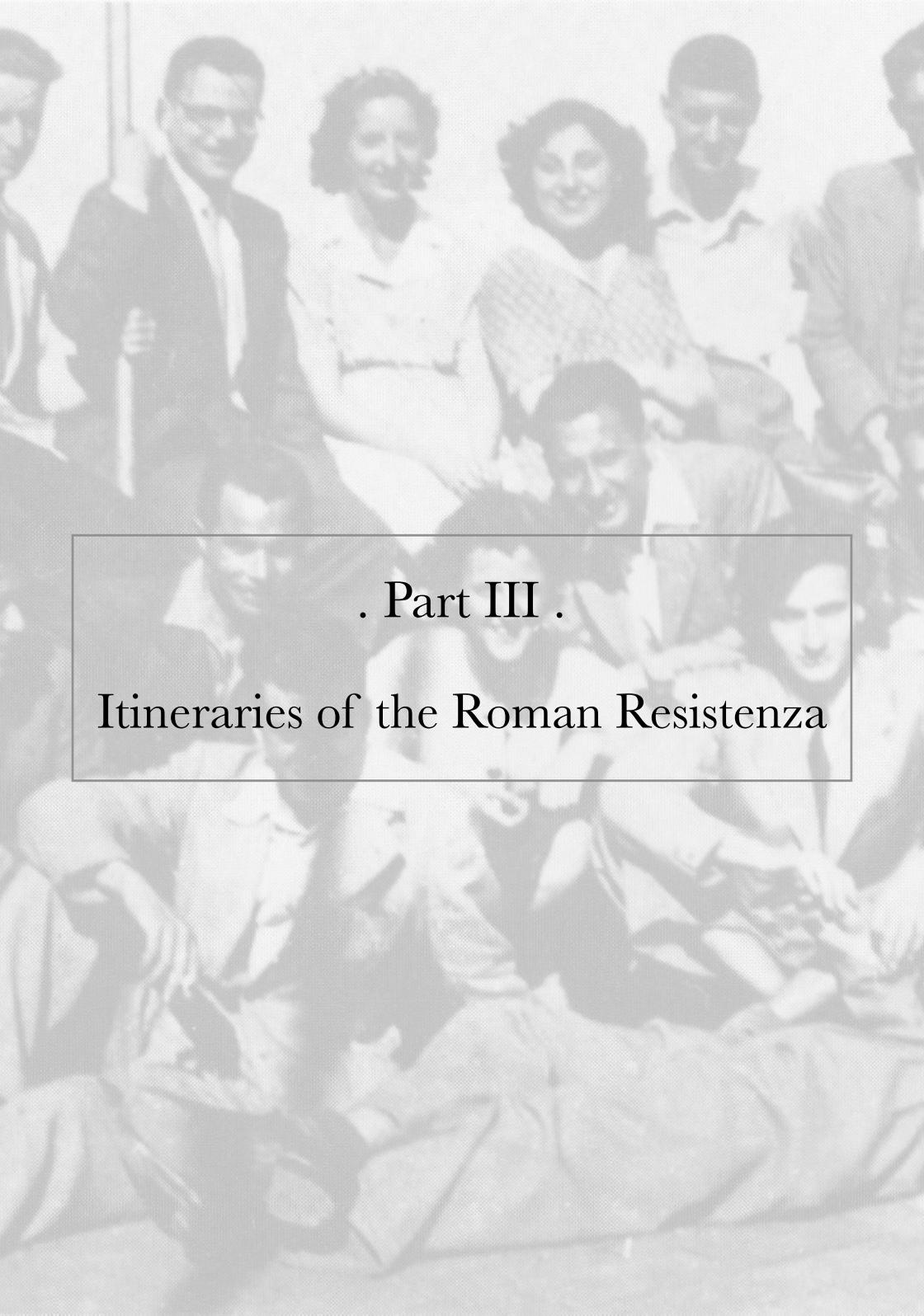
In a meticulous study of 2003 made by the City of Rome, to remember the victims of San Lorenzo sixty years after the raids, it was certified that 1492 people had died in San Lorenzo but most probably, the victims were more than 1600.

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. Part III .

Itineraries of the Roman Resistenza

## Itinerary 1

### The beginning of the Resistenza in Rome and the execution on Ponte di Ferro

#### • **Piazza Ostiense and Porta San Paolo**

After the cessation of the first allied bombing, the Italian government surrendered to Germany and Rome was declared *città aperta*, open city. On 8 September 1943, the German army was ready to occupy Rome. Its troops marched through **Via Ostiense** towards **Porta San Paolo**, where many of the protagonists of the Roman Resistenza were waiting, badly armed, to prevent the entrance of the enemy in the city.

We walked along Via della Marmorata to Porta San Paolo. At the Pyramid of Cestius there were two big tanks: our group got bigger because, along the way, many people joined us, some with guns, two with rifles and two with handguns tucked in their belts. The man leading the group asked me where I was going: “I am coming with you”. “Have you got any relatives amongst the soldiers?”. “No,” I answered drily, “I will try and make myself useful”. “Good! Are you aware that there is going to be a battle here?”. “That’s why I’m here,” I answered. He introduced himself, he said he belonged to the Action Party and I promptly declared I was a Communist.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

They struggled for two days, but the fight was uneven. Many partisans died. **Via Raffaele Persichetti**, the street linking the Pyramid of Cestius to Porta San Paolo, was named after the first partisan who gave his life during the battle. Eventually, the partisans retreated. The Nazi occupation of Rome began and, with it, the Roman Resistenza.



On the walls of the nearby **Cimitero Acattolico** (non-Catholic cemetery) or Cimitero degli inglesi (Englishmen's cemetery), a sign reminds pedestrians of the battle: *“To the Resistance movement which here marked on September 10, 1943 the second Risorgimento”*.

Although the status of *città aperta* partially prevented the destruction of the historical and cultural patrimony of the city, between September 1943 and June 1944, Rome remained a cultural and political battlefield. The city was divided into eight operational areas, in which the GAPs, Patriotic Action Groups formed by partisans of any gender, age and class, operated against the German occupants and the Fascist party.

#### • Garbatella

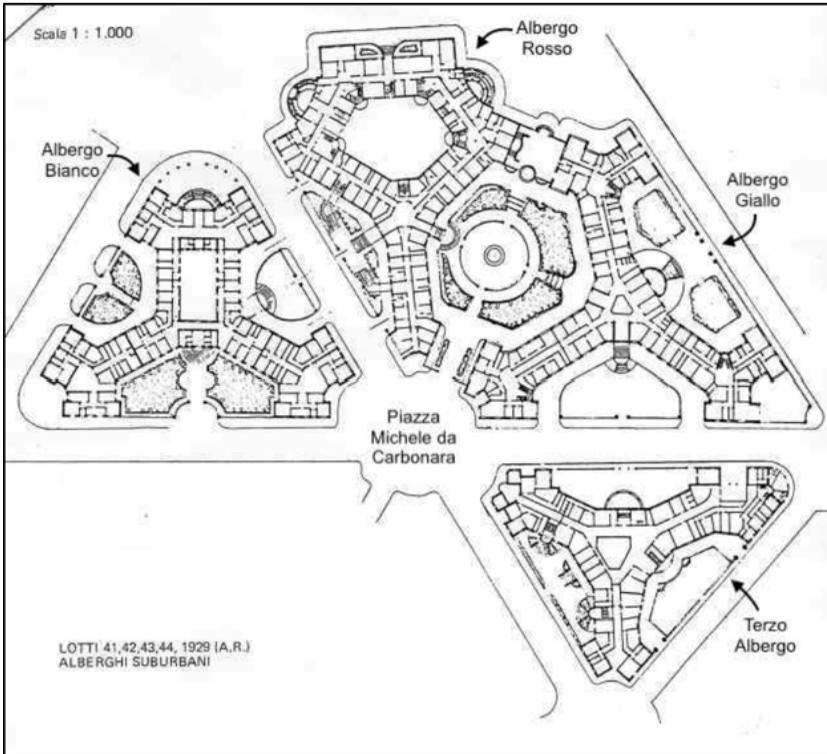
Part of the VII Gap operational area, the working-class district Garbatella is filled with signs, proofs of its rich antifascist life. In the heart of the neighborhood, the *alberghi suburbani* – four buildings known as **Albergo Bianco**, **Albergo Rosso**, **Terzo Albergo** and **Albergo Giallo** – were created at the end of the 1920s by the architect Innocenzo Sabbatini to house the Roman



Albergo Rosso under construction (1925-27).

evictees who had been forced out of their homes in the city centre as a result of the Fascist urban redevelopment project. The four *alberghi* were controlled by the Fascist party. Soon, their functional structure and the permanent presence of Fascist watchmen made them ideal for housing and controlling subversives as well as people threatening the regime – whenever a foreign Minister or President visited Rome (e.g. Adolf Hitler in 1938) they became the enforced homes of antifascists, constantly watched by Mussolini’s secret police, OVRA (Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Anti-Fascism). Paradoxically, by gathering so many of his detractors in the same place, Mussolini created one of the most threatening centres against Fascism in Rome.

At the entrance of the Terzo Albergo, in **Via Percoto**, a sign commemorates Enrico Mancini, one of the first members of the antifascist Action Party. After rejecting the Fascio membership



and losing his carpenter's shop, he managed the clandestine activities of the quarters Testaccio, Ostiense and Garbatella. He lived with his six children in two rooms of the Terzo Albergo and helped in building and maintaining a network of clandestine partisans working against the regime. In March 1944, Mancini was arrested by the SS officers of the Banda Koch. After twelve days of torture, he would not reveal any information, so he was imprisoned in Regina Coeli and killed during the Fosse Ardeatine massacre.

The most emblematic sign of the Resistenza in Garbatella is the **clock** on the tower of the Albergo Rosso, remembered by the residents as a sign of the pain brought by the war. For a long time, the hands of the clock remained stopped at 11.25, the time

of the beginning of the American bombing of Rome on 7 March 1944.

• **Ponte dell'industria**

Meanwhile, General Kurt Mälzer, commander of the city during the occupation, reduced dramatically the daily ratio of bread destined to the civilians. A few bakeries were suspected to make bread for the German army and people started to protest. In the morning of 7 April 1944, a crowd of women and children assaulted the Tesei bakery, which presumably supplied the Nazi troops.



Women from Ostiense, Portuense and Garbatella found out that the bakery baked white bread and had big deposits of flour. They decided to assault the bakery, which did not appear to be guarded by the German troops. The director of the bakery, either agreeing with the desperate women or in an attempt to preserve the machinery, let them come in and take little amounts of bread and flour. But someone called the German police, and the Wehrmacht soldiers arrived [...]. At the sight of the Nazi soldiers, the women tried to escape, but the Germans had blocked the bridge and the road: trapped between the two groups, the women did not see any way out; some of them escaped along the river going down the bank, while others left their loot and surrendered, screaming and begging for life. The soldiers caught ten of them, then lined them up against the railing of the bridge, facing the river. Silence fell, only the abrupt order of the corporal preparing the massacre could be heard. Some of the women prayed, but they did not dare turn and look at their persecutors, who kept them waiting until they managed to move the other women and close the windows of a little house built at the limit of the bridge. Some German soldiers walked behind the women, then killed them all of a sudden [...]. The ten bodies were left on the ground amongst the loaves of bread and the flour soaked in blood. The bridge was guarded for the whole day, preventing anyone from removing the corpses; during the night, they were moved to the morgue where they were identified by their relatives.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

The execution on Ponte dell'Industria (Industry bridge, or Ponte di Ferro, Iron bridge) remained forgotten for more than fifty years. Today, a monument built thanks to Unione donne italiane and the partisan Carla Capponi commemorates Clorinda Falsetti, Italia Ferraci, Esperia Pellegrini, Elvira Ferrante, Eulalia Fiorentino, Elettra Maria Giardini, Concetta Piazza, Assunta Maria Izzi, Arialda Pistoiesi and Silvia Loggreolo.

## Itinerary 2

### *Rome, Open City*: partisan life in Prati



“There are times I think I can’t keep going any longer. This winter seems to go on forever”.

“It won’t, Pina, it won’t. The spring will come again and it’ll be the best ever. Because we’ll be free”.

Roberto Rossellini, *Roma, città aperta*

In one of his most popular films, *Roma, città aperta*, Roberto Rossellini portrays a group of partisans fighting for the liberation of Rome during the long winter between 1943 and 1944, a time which put a strain on the civilians, whose lives intertwined, sometimes painfully, with those of the antifascists.

Walking from Via delle Milizie to Piazza della Libertà, it is easy to stumble, often unknowingly, on some of the key places of the Resistenza of the quarter Prati. In October 1943, Rosa Guarnieri Carducci was shot dead on her doorstep by a GNR German soldier. She had tried to stop the soldier while her son, a draft dodger, and his friends escaped through the rear door. Today, at **Viale delle Milizie, 72**, there is a closed shutter.

In December 1943, in **Via Cola di Rienzo**, some Gap members killed a Fascist. A few days later, in **Via Fabio Massimo**, a group of Gap partisans threw a bomb in a restaurant popular amongst the Germans and the Fascists, killing ten of them.

#### • **Piazza della Libertà**

On 29 January 1944, where Via Cola di Rienzo ends and the river Tevere begins, a committee of Roman students called for a general strike in every school and university. The students of the Dante Alighieri High School, led by the young university student Massimo Gizzio, gathered pacifically in the square, handing out fliers and asking for peace. The local Fascists opened fire on the students and injured Gizzio, who died three days later. On the same day, the Fascists arrested Professor Gioacchino Gesmundo, an Italian partisan, and brought him to the prison of Via Tasso. Gesmundo died during the Fosse Ardeatine massacre.

In Prati, Nazi assaults were fairly frequent. In Rossellini's film, Francesco, an antifascist typographer, is caught by the Nazis during one of these attacks. Pina, his soon-to-be wife, runs after him calling his name. From the truck, Francesco, calls back to her: "Pina! Pina!" and, only once before she is shot dead by an officer, "Teresa!" – Rossellini's subtle homage to Teresa Gullace, the woman from Prati who inspired the character of Pina.



### • Viale Giulio Cesare, 91

Viale Giulio Cesare used to host some of the most important Nazi barracks, where the Wehrmacht soldiers used to take and interrogate their prisoners. In March 1944, Teresa Gullace went to the barracks to have some news of her husband, Girolamo, arrested a few days before during a German assault. Teresa saw her husband leaning from a window and tried to get close, talk to him, and give him a bag with food. But, upon seeing her, a German soldier shot her at the throat and killed her. Her fourteen-year-old son ran towards her and found her on the ground surrounded by blood. Teresa Gullace was pregnant.

Roman women were furious and, in a few hours, the partisans organized a protest in front of the barracks. During the protest, several people died. The popular uprising led to the liberation of Girolamo. On a wall, a sign commemorates Teresa and her story:

*TERESA GULLACE, at the beginning of a new maternity, on March 3, 1944, was here barbarically killed by a German soldier while calling and*

*comforting her husband taken by the Nazi and Fascist police. Her name, symbol of the heroic Roman Resistenza, is proudly remembered by Unione donne italiane.*

- **Via Tomacelli**

In order to vindicate Teresa Gullace, a few days later some of the Gap partisans, knowing that the Fascist march would pass through Via Tomacelli, organized a guerrilla action attacking the marching soldiers with hand grenades and guns.

### Itinerary 3

## The VIII operational area and the street art of Quadraro



Some German soldiers are caught by the partisans from Quadraro.

Delimited by two consular roads, Via Prenestina and Via Casilina, the VIII partisan area was, with Garbatella, one of the most lively antifascist centres in Rome. The presence of a military airport and the highly strategic position of the area facilitated the free movement of the partisans, as well as their possibility to sabotage transport routes and German vehicles.

I met [Nino] Franchellucci and other friends by chance, in Villa Certosa; Franchellucci, who was a member of the PCI, welcomed us saying that we had to organize ourselves and fight. So, we divided in cells, every five members formed a cell, and he

gave us several jobs like carrying propaganda material and a few copies of “L’Unità”. And then, while the German troops were going towards Cassino, on Via Casilina, we had a rally in Piazza della Marranella against the war, Fascism etc.

Angelo Laurenti in Alessandro Portelli, *Città di parole*

### • **Via della Marranella**

As soon as the German troops entered Rome, a military unit provided the partisans of the VIII operational area with weapons. The following day, the partisans and the Italian soldiers fought side by side against the Germans. Throughout the winter, they kept hidden weapon deposits in which they collected ammunitions.

We used to go from Torpignattara to Piazza Vittorio to get the weapons with a hand-cart; there were some boards and under them we hid the ammunitions we would then bring to Torpignattara [...] in the carpenter’s shop there was a deposit of weapons used during several assaults on Via Casilina and Via Prenestina; in the metal factory we made nails with four ends which were then used to stop the convoys and assault them.

Adriano Forcella in Alessandro Portelli, *Città di parole*

### • **Piazza dei Mirti**

Sometimes, the partisans met in Piazza dei Mirti with a red shirt and a handkerchief on their necks, often gathering in a popular trattoria.

There was no curfew in Centocelle, at night we met at the inn, we ate, drank, we greeted each other with clenched fists, the comrades arrived with their red shirt and handkerchief.

Rosario Bentivegna in Alessandro Portelli, *Città di parole*

In Centocelle, they used a trattoria as headquarters, in Piazza Dei Mirti where today there is a school; we went in from Via dei Castani though, there was no entrance in Piazza dei Mirti. [...]



At the centre, Giuseppe Albano.

Sometimes the police, the *carabinieri*, warned them in case the Germans or the Fascists were there.

Renata Pallotti in Alessandro Portelli, *Città di parole*

Amongst the partisans of the VIII operational area, there was Giuseppe Albano, also known as Gobbo del Quarticciolo – the Hunchback of Quarticciolo.

At night he used to come to Piazza dei Mirti, always surrounded by girls, by women, and there was a story about him, that he killed one or two soldiers each day... He used to come to Piazza dei Mirti himself. Every night. Once, I met him, and I said: this

is the famous Hunchback of Quarticciolo. He used to talk about his daily achievements, people came and gathered around him; then, he used to say “I killed a German there...”

Rolando Pellini in Alessandro Portelli, *Città di parole*

Giuseppe Albano fought in Porta San Paolo and joined several sabotage operations, mostly on German trains. His quickness and ability to disappear meant that he was thoroughly searched for by the German troops, and idolized as an avenger of the weak. Although the Nazis did not know his name, he was a hunchback and thus easily recognizable. In April 1944, the German commando ordered the arrest of every hunchback in Rome, since for a few months the German and Fascist soldiers had refused to enter the Centocelle and Quarticciolo areas in fear of being attacked by the partisans guided by Giuseppe Albano, sometimes helped by the groups of Bandiera Rossa and PCI. Their help was essential especially in order to prevent the transit of German vehicles supplying the Anzio front on Via Casilina and Prenestina.

Many people believe that the Hunchback of Quarticciolo would kill Nazis and Fascists with only a knife or even with his bare hands. One of his most famous attacks took place on Easter Monday 1944, when, together with his band, Giuseppe Albano shot three German soldiers at an inn in the Quadraro area. The attack is amongst the reasons of the sweep of Quadraro carried out by Herbert Kappler and his troops. Albano was arrested by the SS soldiers during the sweep and taken to the prison of Via Tasso. Nevertheless, he was never recognized as the infamous Hunchback of Quarticciolo.



**Piazza dei Tribuni**, Monumento dei rastrellati, by Valentina Cavadini.  
Photograph by Valter Sambucini.

### • **Quadraro**

The quarter Quadraro was the heart of a strong and persistent anti-fascist resistance movement, put severely to the test by the Nazi sweep, also known as the *Unternehmen Walfisch* – the Whale Plan. The German soldiers, guided by Kappler, marched through the streets of Quadraro and entered every building – they caught 1500 people, taking them away with trucks. They drove them to Cinecittà, then Terni and eventually to the concentration camp in Fossoli; about 900 of them arrived in Germany. More than 350 never came back. The message from the Nazis to Rome was clear: one of the fiercest centres of the Resistanza had been attacked, so nowhere in Rome was safe.



### • Via Monte del Grano

Seventy years after the sweep, in April 2014, Lucamaleonte painted “Nido di vispe”. On the mural, seven wasps with a grey and yellow nest background – representing a decade each, from 1944 to 2014 – underline the pride the Quadraro citizens took in their nickname *nido di vespe* (wasps nest) originally given to them by the Nazis. “We did not want to represent humans on the wall,” notes the curator of the project, David Diavù Vecchiato. “During that dramatic occasion, humans represented the destroyer, but insects represent the defeated, the little but fierce rebels unexpectedly attacked. We had the duty to celebrate them”. The wall “has a precise meaning, it marks – in an urban and historical sense – the entryway to the old Quadraro”. During the post-war period, “the old Quadraro was still there, isolated, marginalized, still representing the same hideout, a dangerous wasps nest that had to be avoided. [...] Via Monte del Grano symbolizes the shift from a time to another, and from a situation to another – it is like a portal in history”.

“The inhabitants of Quadraro are very much aware of it. The sentence *You are now entering free Quadraro* was written by an anonymous writer on the wall – it was inspired by the IRA street art in the auto-declared autonomous area of the Irish city of Derry during the north-Irish conflict, which Lucamaleonte faithfully recalls in his own work. The writing expresses the idea of being welcomed in a sort of ‘other’ world, with ‘other’ laws and ‘other’ traditions. It is an entryway that underlines the awareness of a past that needs not to be forgotten” (Museo di Urban Art di Roma, MURo).

### • Via dei Quintili

“Buckingham Warrior for Q44” was painted by Gary Baseman in April 2012 in remembrance of the sweep. Q44 is the acronym of the association from Quadraro whose activity is directed at keeping alive the memory of the 1944 sweep. But the Buckingham Warrior, a recurrent character in Baseman’s artistic production, is also dedicated to his father “a Holocaust survivor, and represents the real life heroes who pushed back against Nazi



tyranny in WWII. The Buckingham Warrior is a defender of strong ideals and a stark reminder of the fragility of our own ecology” (BASEMAN website).

On the mural, each killed or deported partisan is replaced by two partisans; the devils hidden amongst the trees symbolize the nearly defeated Nazi regime. Veritas, whose only eye stands for the unicity of truth, Fides, with a decapitated head, and Libertas, smiling to the Buckingham Warrior, recall the ideals of Quadraro.

## Itinerary 4 Via Veneto before the *dolce vita*



1959, the cast of *La Dolce Vita* in Via Veneto. From left to right, Marcello Mastroianni, Anouk Aimée, Luise Rainer, Federico Fellini, Anita Ekberg and Yvonne Furneaux. Cicconi Historical Photographic Archive.

In the heart of the Ludovisi area, offices and luxury hotels, liberty buildings, palazzo Margherita and the USA Embassy, the cafés of Via Veneto once filled with actors, singers, celebrities, journalists, photographers and paparazzi recall the post-war economic boom, the desire for beauty and amusement and the carefree lifestyle celebrated by Federico Fellini in his film *La dolce vita*.

Yet, where today stands a site of recreation and wellbeing, there used to be one of the main centres of German power. The buildings that house expensive hotels and cafés used to host Nazi troops, offices, warehouses, storehouses, control centres and prisons.

### • **Via Vittorio Veneto**

The liberty building between Corso d'Italia and Via Po' – **Pensione Santa Caterina** – was used as headquarters by the Germans police. Many German officials resided at the **Grand Hotel Flora**, which hosted the Wehrmacht high command on the second floor. Along the way, the **Excelsior Hotel** welcomed other members of the Nazi army, such as General Mältzer, and was used as a venue for balls and receptions.

If, during the war, Via Veneto became a German street, the occupants were always followed by the members of the Resistenza and Via Veneto also became a clandestine gathering centre for the partisans. On 19 December 1943, Maria Teresa Regard, Franco Calamandrei, Arminio Savioli and Ernesto Borghesi destroyed the ground floor of the Grand Hotel Flora.

Equipped with a time bomb each, they put them on the sills of the ground floor hotel windows. Two of them did not explode, maybe because they had been badly crafted; two of them though destroyed the fixtures, injuring, and maybe even killing, some of the German soldiers who used to spend their time in the big hall.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

After the attack, followed by several others, the Germans fortified the area with roadblocks. In **Via Lucullo** the Nazi military court was guarded by SS soldiers, while in **Via Romagna** the Pensione Jaccarino was used as headquarters by the Banda Koch.

### • **Piazza Barberini**

The day before the attack on the Grand Hotel Flora, Carla Capponi and Rosario Bentivegna killed eight soldiers outside **Cinema Barberini** where the Germans used to spend their free time.



*Confiscated by the Fascist squad of the Lieutenant Pietro Koch, the Pensione Jaccarino – placed in a small building which used to be located here – became a site of imprisonment and torture for many patriots who fought for freedom from Nazifascism. Many of them got out of it only to be taken to the execution platoon. Never forget.*

Carla and Rosario (known amongst his fellow partisans as Paolo) waited for the soldiers to come out of the cinema.

We waited the end of the show and we went, Paolo and I, along Via Barberini with a bike at hand. The exit doors of the cinema opened and the crowd of soldiers arrived in the square. ‘I’m going,’ Paolo said, and hopped on the bike throwing himself at great speed towards the brief downhill space separating him from the target. [...] Paolo stopped amongst the soldiers, sat on the bike seat, a foot on the ground, the other on the pedal, ready to throw himself down Via del Tritone [...]. When I saw him going, turning away from the square, I went uphill. Behind me, the bomb exploded, followed by moments of silence.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

- **Via del Tritone**

Where Via del Tritone meets Via del Traforo and Via Due Marcelli, there is an underground pedestrian passageway. In this underpass, people found refuge during the bombings of Rome. The tunnel was conceived as a public air-raid shelter, but the Unpa (Unione nazionale protezione antiaerea) together with the researcher Lorenzo Grassi, recently discovered a series of unpublished documents which revealed that, as a very big and very expensive shelter, it was originally given a double function, civil and anti-raid – “it became for all intents and purposes an early example of project financing”, explained Lorenzo Grassi. The underpass can host several hundred people and their protection is guaranteed by a strong layer resistant to penetration, as well as by a second layer of concrete resistant to possible higher collapses.



The rooms, situated five and a half meters under the ground, were meant to be used as small shops and public service offices. The two central hallways formed the M zone of maximum anti-raid protection, while all around them there were twenty little shops (*Il Messaggero*).

Via del Tritone is also the road where, in March 1944, Carla Capponi waited for an important signal from Pasquale Balsamo. She would then give one herself to Rosario Bentivegna, arriving from the opposite street with a rubbish cart loaded with trinitrotoluene.

### • **Via Rasella**

On 23 March 1944, a Gap commando put an explosive device in front of **Palazzo Tittoni**, the oldest of Via Rasella, killing thirty-three Nazi soldiers of the police regiment Bozen, as well as two Italian civilians. The partisans attacked the Bozen SS battalion during its daily intimidating march in the city centre.



The windows of Via Rasella after the attack. Mausoleo Fosse Ardeatine.

The Bozen battalion would come from Via Flaminia and cross Piazzale Flaminio, Piazza del Popolo, Via del Babuino, Piazza di Spagna. Along the way, the possibility of succeeding in making as little damage as possible to civilians were nearly nil because Via del Babuino, Via Due Marcelli and Largo Tritone were densely populated by shops, cafés and houses. Via Rasella was the only uphill street, which facilitated the attack: it was narrow and, most of all, devoid of shops in its highest part, towards Via Quattro Fontane.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

The attack was carefully planned. That morning, Carla Capponi reached Via del Tritone and waited, in front of the offices of the newspaper *Il Messaggero*, for a signal from Pasquale. Then, Rosario Bentivegna, dressed as a garbage collector, placed an explosive device hidden in his cart in Via Rasella.



Via Rasella, 141, today.

I reached Il Messaggero and I saw Pasquale in a corner, at the newsagent's: he winked at me, maybe my face was tense and he wanted to reassure me. He had to give me the signal to start moving. Going up Via Rasella, I in turn gave a signal to Paolo [...]. There was the regiment at the bottom: it occupied the whole street, the boys marched and started singing, until the head of the regiment surpassed Paolo who disappeared from my view. Then, I moved at the corner of Via Rasella [...]. The regiment had nearly reached me when I saw Paolo who, after surpassing it, crossed the road and joined me. I put the raincoat on him, but then the police, who hadn't lost sight of me, started to cross the road; I got out the revolver and, suddenly, a bus drove between us.

[...] That's when the cart exploded: a violent blow ran us over and pushed us forward, the bus swerved on the pavement, the police escaped and we ran uphill, under a thick shooting while the bullets around us bounced on the pavement and little splinters of plaster fell on us from the walls of the buildings. The Germans from the head of the battalion were shooting.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

Thinking that the explosion was coming from hand grenades thrown from above them, the German soldiers started to shoot towards the windows. At **number 141**, there is a five-floor building, the only one in the street whose facade has not been renovated. It still bears the signs of the explosion and of the bullets. Today, no sign reminds people of the attack.

## Itinerary 5

### From the Fosse Ardeatine massacre to the liberation of Rome



250 people, pedestrians and inhabitants of Via Rasella, were taken by the German soldiers who lined them up against the wall of **Palazzo Barberini**.

At 11.30, on March 25th, the Stefani Agency issued a statement of the German Commando in Rome: “In the afternoon of the 23 March 1944, some criminals carried out an attack throwing bombs against a German police regiment passing through Via Rasella [...]. The German Commando has therefore ordered that, for each German killed, ten Communist criminals shall be shot. The order has already been executed” [...].

It felt as if the whole city had fallen on us.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

The attack in Via Rasella is, to this day, the most important and most controversial attack at the hands of the Roman Resistenza.

It is a highly divisive episode both because of its consequences on the civilians, and because of the following Nazi and Fascist reprisal.

After the attack, the Gap partisans underwent civil and penal trials in increasing solitude. The CLN divided and the Roman Resistance movement got more and more fractured.

- **Via Conte Rosso and Via Tasso**

Following the order of the German commando, 335 people were taken from the prisons of Via Tasso and Regina Coeli and killed at Fosse Ardeatine. The prison of Via Tasso hosted, in 1943-44, the headquarters of the Nazi security police, which used to be located in **Villa Wilkonsky**, between via Ludovico di Savoia and Via Conte Rosso, the building that today hosts the British Embassy. In Villa Wilkonsky, the head of the Gestapo, Herbert Kappler, had his offices before moving to Via Tasso. Erich Priebke used some of the rooms of the Villa as segregation



Prison of Via Tasso, 145.

areas. After the relocation in Via Tasso, the Nazis tortured there more than 2000 people, men and women, piled up in microscopic cells, without air or light. The Germans wanted confessions, names, places, addresses. Kappler used to brag about his infallible torture methods, *meine eigene Technik, meine eigene raffinierte Technik* - my own technique, my own clever technique. But many resisted him. They endured torture without uttering a word. Today, in place of the prison, there is the **Museo Storico della Liberazione** (see also pp. 13-15).

### • Fosse Ardeatine

The 335 prisoners were taken to the pits in Via Ardeatina, where they were shot dead. Then, the Nazi soldiers blew up the entryway of the pits hiding their reprisal.

After the liberation of Rome, when the execution was investigated, they discovered that only three amongst the victims had been condemned to death on the basis of a verdict; not even the German court of Via Lucullo had the courage or the



Renato Guttuso, *Fosse Ardeatine*, 1950, Collezione Luciano Lenti.

possibility to pass a judgement legally authorizing that massacre. They wanted us to understand that above the law of the right and the moral, there were the ‘orders’ of the Nazi command, the “Deutschland über alles” of the Aryan race destined to dominate all the other races considered inferior and for which there was no need of either a court or verdicts. An ‘order’ was enough, even coming from a corporal with a swastika on his arm. As it happened a few days after the assault in Via Rasella, on Ponte dell’Industria, where ten women were executed for an ‘order’ given on the spot by a Wehrmacht corporal.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*

### • **Piazza Venezia**

Eventually, the Fifth United States Army, guided by M.W. Clark, managed to defeat the German army and enter Rome.

On July 4, the first military units of the allied army, coming from the Anzio and Cassino fronts, entered in Rome. They flew into the consular roads, Appia, Tuscolana, Casilina, Prenestina, Tiburtina, as the last German military units fled north. From San Lorenzo to Piazza Venezia the crowd poured into the squares to welcome their liberators. [...] Finally we all got together, the survivors of that long night, the German occupation of Rome. [...] Everybody wanted to know about each other, about how they managed to survive, but nobody wanted to talk of the past. We were all making plans and thinking about the future, the newspaper, the party. The air was filled with enthusiasm, a wish to be quick, to delete the traces of the devastation, to regain the life that, to many of us, had been denied.

Carla Capponi, *Con cuore di donna*



Aldo Gay

4/6/44  
Finalmente liberi  
gli alleati sono entrati  
a Roma

Aldo Gay

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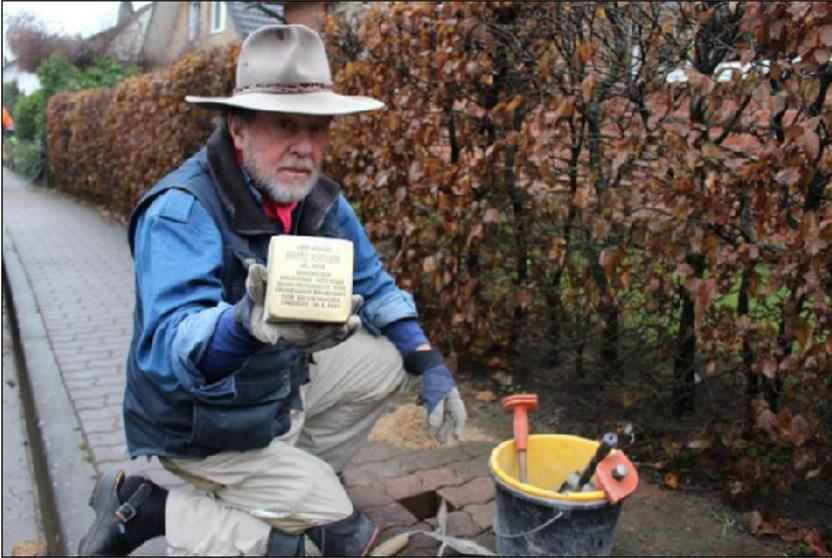
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## Postmemory - *Stolpersteine*, the Stumbling Stones



Gunter Demnig in action.

In 1995, the German artist Gunter Demnig decided to place a *Stolperstein* in front of the Historic City Hall of Cologne. This was a special plated cobblestone placed in between other ones. *Stolperstein* literally means “stumbling stone” and its idea seems to derive from a Nazi saying which stated that when one stumbles on a projecting stone, a Jew must be buried there. From this antisemitic proverb, Demnig managed to conceive an idea that has gained worldwide recognition. While walking around a major European city, there is a possibility for a tourist or a townsman to “stumble” on one of these cobblestones. Curiosity will lead this person to read it and, as a consequence, he/she will start remembering a not so distant past, a wretched one concerning the Nazis and the Fascists.





*Stolpersteine* at **Via della Madonna dei Monti, 82**, in Rome.

deportation of the Jews and, consequently, part of it has been engraved on the plaque to remember that ill-fated day. The idea of giving back, in a certain way, the life to these victims by means of this memorial gained consensus throughout the continent. Today, there are more than 67000 of these stones in 18 European countries and over 1000 cities. Here in Rome, 249 *Stolpersteine* can be found.

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